

## Message Text

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45

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 MC-02 OMB-01

CG-00 GAC-01 RSR-01 ACDA-19 /102 W  
----- 101436

R 040655 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0681  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
DIA  
NAVELEXSYSCOM PME-119

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1943

E. O. 11652: N/ A  
TAGS: MARR, AS, US  
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO PROJECT OMEGA

REF: CANBERRA 1763

1. IN COURSE OF QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING  
PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 3, PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM WAS  
ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT  
GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO HAVE OMEGA CONSIDERED BY  
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE. WHEN ASKED IF REFERRAL  
TO COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE IMPLIED  
THAT CABINET HAS DECIDED OMEGA HAS SOME DEFENSE  
SIGNIFICANCE, WHITLAM ANSWERED IN THE NEGATIVE AND  
SAID THE CABINET HAD NOT DISCUSSED OMEGA. HE WENT  
ON TO SAY THAT PART OF THE PURPOSE OF THE JOINT  
COMMITTEE INQUIRY WOULD BE TO ALLOW PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE  
OMEGA HAS DEFENSE SIGNIFICANCE TO " VENTILATE  
THEIR VIEWS AND TO HAVE THOSE VIEWS EXAMINED OR  
EXPOSED IN PUBLIC". WHITLAM WAS ALSO ASKED IF HE  
THOUGHT THAT REFERRAL TO THE COMMITTEE WOULD RESULT  
IN A DELAY IN APPROVAL FOR OMEGA. HE RESPONDED THAT  
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THE COMMITTEE WOULD SET ITS OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE.

2. COMMENT: THIS HAS BEEN WIDELY INTERPRETED TO  
MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE A DELAY IN CABINET CONSIDERATION  
OF OMEGA UNTIL AFTER THE ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE IN  
JULY. WHITLAM HIMSELF, HOWEVER, DID NOT SAY THIS NOR  
DID HE DRAW ANY IMPLICATIONS OTHER THAN REPORTED ABOVE.

3. IN AN EDITORIAL ON APRIL 4, THE AUSTRALIAN AGE  
GAVE SUPPORT TO WHITLAM'S REFERRAL OF OMEGA TO THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE. THIS ACTION WAS INTERPRETED TO BE  
PRIMARILY A TACTICAL, POLITICAL MOVE IN ORDER TO DENY  
A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE TO THE LEFT WING OF THE ALP IN ITS  
RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

RICE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973CANBER01943  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** CANBERRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 CANBERRA 1763  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971119  
**Subject:** PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO PROJECT OMEGA  
**TAGS:** MARR, AS, US  
**To:** DIA  
NAVELEXSYSCOM PME-119  
PM  
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WELLINGTON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

